

Remarks

Claims 1-48 are pending for the Examiner's consideration, including amended claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 23, 27, and 31 and new claims 40-48. No new matter is believed to have been added.

The Office Action Summary indicates that the drawings(s) filed on 05 April 2005 are accepted by the Examiner. However, Applicant did not submit formal drawings on that date. Filed concurrently herewith is a Submission of Formal Drawings for the present application. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 5, 6, 8-11, 27, 28, and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 5, 8, 11, 27, and 31 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-4, 7, 12-18, 20-26, 29, 30, 32-35, and 37-39 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,810,171 to Lee ("Lee") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,464,080 to Morris *et al.* ("Morris"). The rejection respectfully is overcome.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is directed to a carrying case for a portable electronic device comprising: a plurality of wall portions defining a compartment for receiving the portable electronic device; and a shock absorber associated with at least one of the wall portions, the shock absorber including a leaf spring extending substantially across a length defined by a side of the compartment; wherein the leaf spring is configured and dimensioned to absorb at least a portion of any forces transmitted through the wall portion to the portable electronic device.

Independent claim 23, as amended, is directed to a carrying case for a portable computer, comprising: a plurality of walls including a bottom wall configured and dimensioned to rest on the ground; a compartment located within the carrying case for receiving the portable computer; and a leaf spring located within the compartment proximate the bottom wall of the carrying case, the leaf spring extending substantially parallel to the bottom wall and extending substantially across a length defined by the bottom wall; wherein the leaf spring is configured and dimensioned to absorb at least a portion of any forces transmitted from the ground to the portable computer.

Lee is directed to a bag buffer, while Morris is directed to a cushioning structure. However, the cited combination of Lee and Morris does not disclose or suggest a

leaf spring extending substantially across a length defined by a side of the compartment, as recited in independent claim 1. Moreover, the cited combination of Lee and Morris does not disclose or suggest the leaf spring extending substantially parallel to the bottom wall and extending substantially across a length defined by the bottom wall, as recited in independent claim 23.

With respect to dependent claims 2-4, 7, 12-18, and 20-22 which depend from claim 1, and dependent claims 24-26, 29, 30, 32-35, and 37-39 which depend from claim 23, it is submitted that these claims at least are patentable not only because of the patentability of the independent claim from which they depend, but also for the totality of features recited respectively therein.

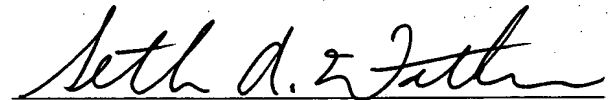
Finally, claims 19 and 36 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Morris and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,494,157 to Golenz *et al.* With respect to dependent claim 19 which depends from claim 1, and dependent claim 36 which depends from claim 23, it is submitted that these claims at least are patentable not only because of the patentability of the independent claim from which they depend, but also for the totality of features recited respectively therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If the Examiner does not agree, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues so as to expedite the eventual allowance of the claims.

A fee for the presentation of new claims is believed to be due and a Fee Transmittal Sheet is submitted concurrently herewith. A Petition for Extension of Time also is submitted concurrently herewith, along with a Change of Correspondence Address for Application. Should any additional fees be required, please charge such fees to Steptoe & Johnson LLP Deposit Account No. 19-4293.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosures